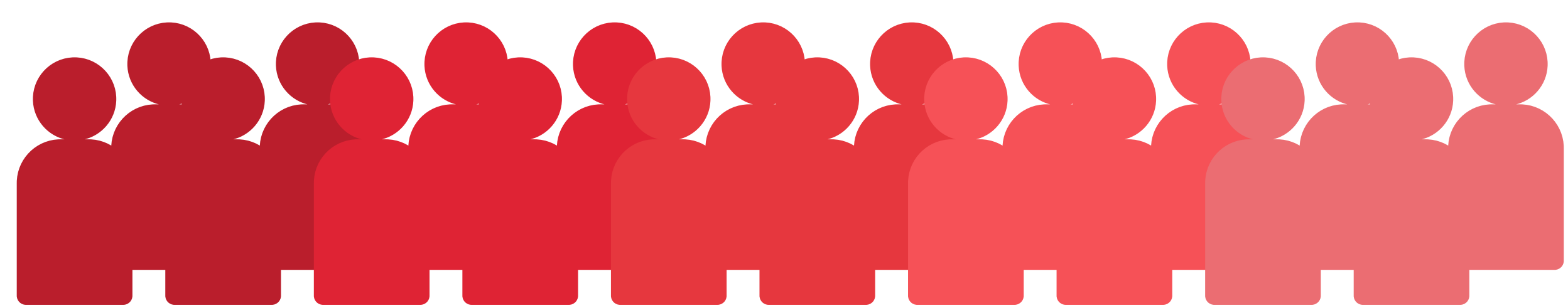


# YLA Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative

Since its launch in **2015**, the U.S. Department of State's Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLA) Fellowship Program empowers emerging entrepreneurs from the Western Hemisphere to enable the full economic potential of the region's citizens. YLA promotes U.S. business models, increases trade, encourages job creation, and builds lasting and sustainable networks of young entrepreneurs and business and social leaders across **Latin America, the Caribbean, Canada, and the United States**.

CELEBRATING  
**1,008**

YLA FELLOWS



**48% WOMEN**

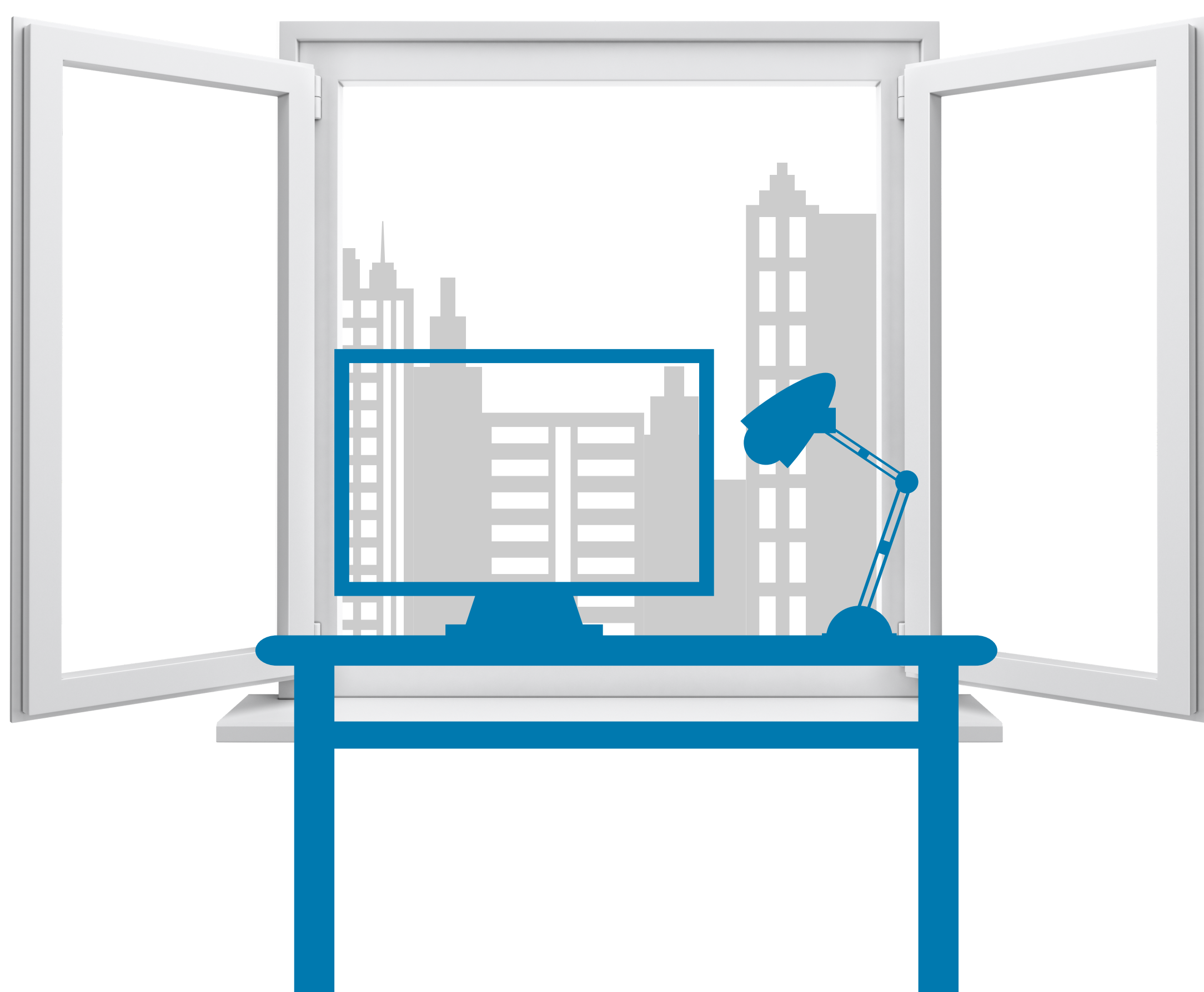
AND **50,000+**

YLA NETWORK MEMBERS

WITH ACCESS TO **19 ONLINE COURSES**,  
**75+ INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS**, AND  
**400+ INFORMATIONAL BLOG POSTS**

FROM  
**37** COUNTRIES

YLA HAS CONNECTED PROFESSIONAL  
FELLOWS WITH **873 U.S. HOST BUSINESSES**  
AND ORGANIZATIONS ACROSS **34 STATES**



THE YLA FELLOWSHIP HAS AWARDED

**90+**

IMPACT AND  
INNOVATION  
GRANTS

**135**

OUTBOUND  
EXCHANGE  
GRANTS

**140**

PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
GRANTS

TO FOSTER **COLLABORATION** AND **CAPACITY**  
BUILDING BETWEEN U.S. PARTNER AND  
ALUMNI NETWORKS AND ALUMNI LOCAL  
**ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES**

A YEAR AFTER  
RETURNING  
FROM THEIR  
**YLA**  
FELLOWSHIPS

**84%**

ATTRACTED  
NEW  
RESOURCES

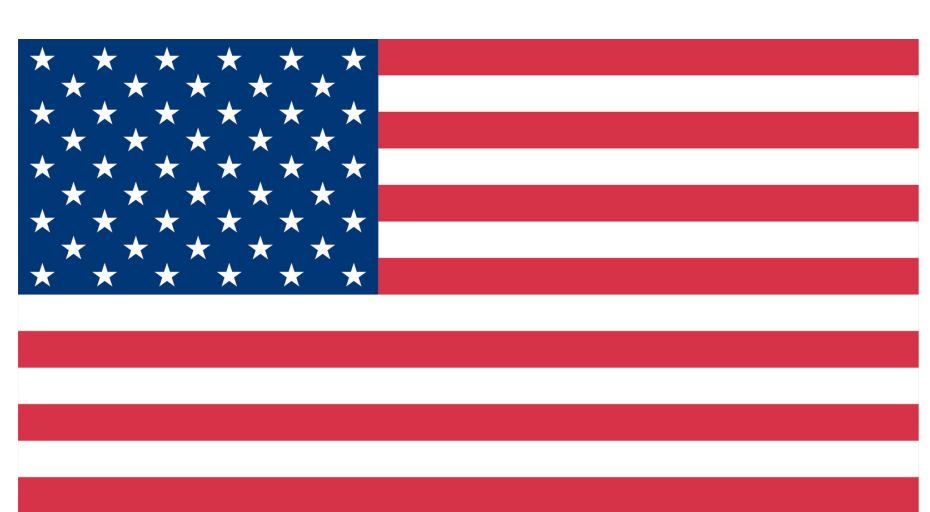
**94%**

FELT  
PREPARED  
TO FIND  
FUNDING

**98%**

APPLIED  
WHAT THEY  
LEARNED  
IN THE U.S.

OVERALL, **ALUMNI** ARE A PART OF AN  
**ACTIVE NETWORK** SUPPORTED BY U.S.  
EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES



Learn more and join the  
YLA Network at  
[ylai.state.gov](http://ylai.state.gov)





## THE THREE PILLARS OF YLA



**The YLA Fellowship Program** is an annual exchange program for 280 young business and social entrepreneurs from 37 countries across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada, who are matched with businesses and organizations across the United States. In addition to entrepreneurial leadership training, fellows build new skills, share best practices, and forge commercial ties. YLA alumni also have access to Outbound Exchanges, small grants, resources and events, as well as to exclusive opportunities offered by the U.S. Department of State on [alumni.state.gov](https://alumni.state.gov).



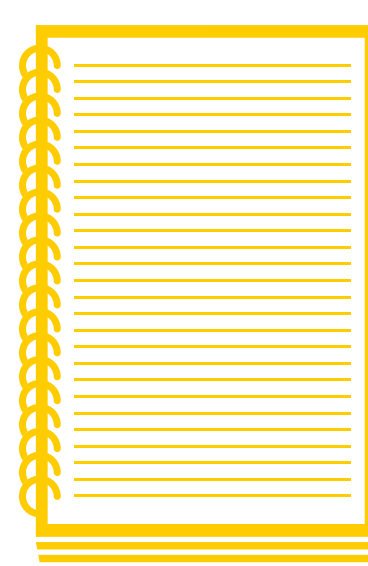
**The YLA Network** is a virtual community of 50,000+ entrepreneurship-minded members from across the Americas. Network members engage with curated leadership and business development resources that highlight innovative U.S. models, policy-focused campaigns, and networking opportunities.



**U.S. Embassies and Consulates** organize activities with YLA professional fellows, network members, and diverse young leaders to support entrepreneurial ecosystems. YLA fellows and network members are key partners for engaging with and inspiring young people across the hemisphere.

"I feel like my mentor is a walking book of solutions. I am extremely satisfied with my mentor, she has given me some great ideas and helped me manage my time. I couldn't have asked for better!"

- 2021 Fellow, St. Maarten



"IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR US TO **COLLABORATE, TEACH, AND LEARN** FROM AN ENTREPRENEUR FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY."

- 2018 HOST, PENNSYLVANIA



"YLA has helped me build confidence, see the value in my services, and charge appropriately."

- 2018 Fellow, Barbados



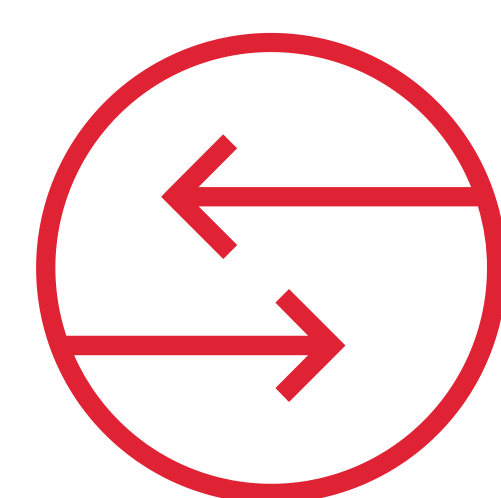
"YLA brought me friends, business partners, clients, and a family. It changed my life."

- 2016 Fellow, Brazil



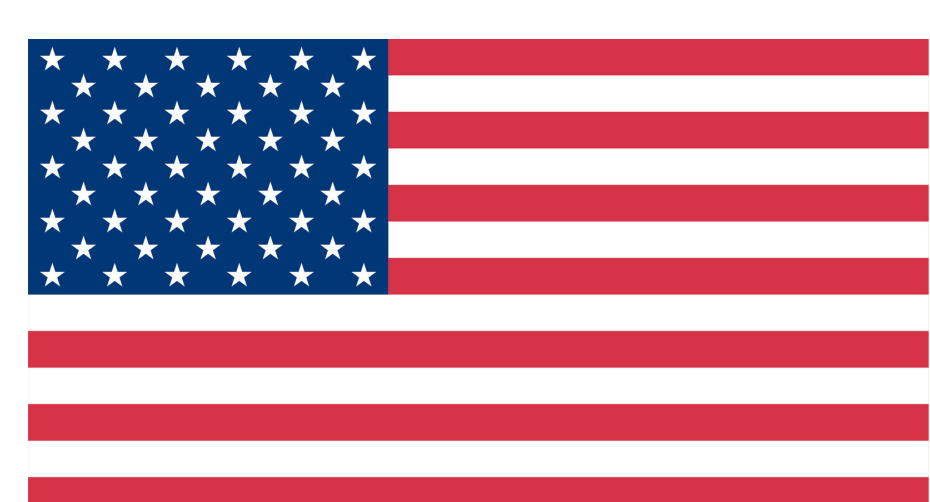
"This experience far exceeded my expectations. My fellow and I have enjoyed a wonderful collaborative experience."

-2021 Host, San Diego



"THANKS TO THE YLA NETWORK, I FEEL I HAVE AN EXTENDED PERCEPTION OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT, AND WHAT'S BEST...**THE CHANCE TO DO SOMETHING TOGETHER.**"

- YLA NETWORK MEMBER, ECUADOR



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